

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-54. (Cancelled.)
55. (New) A method for transmitting content in a communications network between a source node and a destination node, the method comprising:
 - configuring a table to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the source node to a first network;
 - analyzing a cost associated with transmitting content from the source node to the first network with respect to a threshold cost, wherein the threshold cost is based at least in part on whether a specified amount of time has elapsed relative to the transmission of content from the source node to the first network; and
 - modifying the table to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the source node to a second network based on analysis of the cost against the threshold cost.
56. (New) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first network is an overlay network.
57. (New) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the modifying step is performed if the cost exceeds the threshold cost.
58. (New) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the modifying step comprises: designating a neighboring node in the second network as a next hop.

59. (New) A node in a communications network, the node comprising:
 - a first port operable to receive content destined for a destination node in the communications network;
 - one or more output ports operable to transmit content to a first network and to a second network; and
 - a table configurable to cause content received at the first port to be selectively transmitted from the one or more output ports to the first network or the second network in response to instructions derived from an analysis of an amount of time during which content has been transmitted from the one or more output ports to the first network.
60. (New) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the analysis involves comparing the amount of time against a threshold amount of time.
61. (New) A node as recited in claim 60, wherein the table is modified to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the one or more output ports to the second network if the cost exceeds the threshold cost.
62. (New) A node as recited in claim 61, wherein the first network is an overlay network.
63. (New) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the table is operable to be modified to designate a neighboring node in the second network as a next hop.

64. (New) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, wherein a table entry is configured to cause content received at a source node and destined for a destination node to be transmitted from the source node to a first network en route to the destination node, the method comprising:

comparing an elapsed time associated with transmitting content from the source node to the first network with a threshold amount of time; and
modifying the table to cause content to be transmitted from the source node to a second network as a result of the comparing step.

65. (New) A method for transmitting content in a communications network between a source node and a destination node, the method comprising:

configuring a table to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the source node to a first network;

analyzing a cost associated with transmitting content from the source node to the first network against a threshold cost;

modifying the table to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the source node to a second network based on analysis of the cost against the threshold cost;

in response to the modifying step, analyzing a second cost associated with transmitting content from the source node to the second network against a second threshold cost;

modifying the table to cause content intended for transmission from the source node to the destination node to be routed from the source node to the first network based on analysis of the second cost against the second threshold cost.

66. (New) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the second threshold cost is based at least in part on whether a specified amount of time has elapsed relative to the transmission of content from the source node to the second network.
67. (New) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the threshold cost is based on a delay metric.
68. (New) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the threshold cost is based on a performance metric.
69. (New) A method as in claim 55 wherein the first network does not contain the destination node.
70. (New) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the first network does not contain the destination node.
71. (New) A method as in claim 64 wherein the first network does not contain the destination node.
72. (New) A method as in claim 65 wherein the first network does not contain the destination node.